

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 094674

66

ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-07 ISO-00 /011 R

66011

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:RBCASAGRANDE:BJR

APPROVED BY EUR/CE:RBCASAGRANDE

C:JMONTOMERY

S/S- MR. ORTIZ

----- 007652

R 192309Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 094674

FOL REPEAT BERN 1660 SENT ACTION USIA INFO SECSTATE

APR 15

QTE

UNCLAS BERN 1660

USIAC

USIA FOR IPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: JOURNAL DE GENEVA EDITORIAL ON "SONNENFELDT AFFAIRS"

LEADING SWISS-FRENCH NEWSPAPER, JOURNAL DE GENEVA, APRIL 14
CARRIED FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL SIGNED BY CHIEF EDITOR CLAUDE
MONNIER DEALING WITH THE SECRETARY'S AND COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT'S
REMARKS IN LONDON. EDITORIAL, TITLED "THE UNITED STATES: THE
ROAD IS TRACED FOR THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS", FOLLOWS:
"THE SONNENFELDT AFFAIR" HAS SHOWN TO ANYONE WHO MIGHT HAVE
IGNORED THE FACT THAT THERE IS A BIG GAP BETWEEN THE PRUDENT,
CALCULATED, EMBELLISHED, POLISHED WORDS WHICH A STATESMAN
PERMITS HIMSELF TO UTTER IN PUBLIC AND THE HARD, REALISTIC,
BITING REFLECTIONS WHICH HE MAKES IN FRONT OF HIS COLLEAGUES,
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 094674

THAT IS, THE MEN WHO SHARE WITH HIM THE RESPONSIBILITY

FOR LEADING THEIR COUNTRY.

THE FACTS GO BACK TO LAST DECEMBER: HENRY KISSINGER AND HELMUT SONNENFELDT, HIS NUMBER ONE COUNSELOR FOR SOVIET AFFAIRS, HAD BROUGHT TOGETHER IN LONDON THE AMERICAN AMBASSADORS FROM ALL OVER EUROPE TO DISCUSS THE UP-TO-DATE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

OF COURSE, THIS CONSULTATION WAS HELD BEHIND CLOSED DOORS BUT, DUE TO THE MALICIOUSNESS OF HUMANS AND OF OUR TIME, SOME OF THE REMARKS MADE BY THE TWO MEN WERE "FILTERED" INTO THE AMERICAN PRESS. FROM THESE VERY FRAGXENTARY LEAKS ONE MIGHT HAVE CONCLUDED THAT BY NOW THE UNITED STATES CONSIDERED THE RISE OF THE SOVIET POWER INEVITABLE AND HAD DECIDED--AS A FIRST RESULT-- TO FINALLY ABANDON THE EASTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS IN SOVIET HANDS.

WHEN THINGS WERE PRESENTED THUS IT LOOKED OF COURSE AS IF GERALD FORD AND HIS SECRETARY OF STATE NO LONGER BELIEVED IN AMERICAN STRENGTH AND THAT THEY ADVOCATED A DEFEATIST WITHDRAWAL. SUCH A DISTORTION OF FACTS COULD, IN NORMAL TIMES, HAVE BEEN IGNORED BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT; A FEW MONTHS BEFORE THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IT HAD TO BE CORRECTED.

AFTER DENIALS AND EMBARRASSED EXPLANATIONS, THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS FINALLY DECIDED ON THE WISEST MOVE: AN IN EXTENSO PUBLICATION OF THE "OFFICIAL NON VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT" OF THE REMARKS MADE BY MESSRS. KISSINGER AND SONNENFELDT IN LONDON.

MR. KISSINGER STRESSES THAT IT WOULD BE RIDICULOUS TO DENY THE RISE OF SOVIET POWER AND THAT TODAY AS IN 1945 THE TASK OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATS CONSISTS OF THE CONTAINMENT OF COMMUNISM. AND THIS IS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THREE DIFFERENT MEANS: FIRST, BY MAKING IT NECESSARY FOR THE SOVIET UNION (TRADE, TECHNOLOGY) TO LINK ITSELF WITH THE WEST IN AN ORGANIC WAY; THEN, BY EXPLOITING THE ENORMOUS ERRORS COMMITTED BY THE SOVIET UNION IN ITS EXPANSION; FINALLY, BY REINFORCING WESTERN UNITY IN ORDER NOT TO PRESENT USELESS TEMPTATIONS TO THE SOVIET UNION. THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 094674

CENTRAL IDEA IS TO KEEP SOVIET POWER "IN LINE" SINCE IT CANNOT BE IGNORED.

STARTING FROM THESE PREMISES, THE MEN IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT ARRIVE AT PRACTICAL CONCLUSIONS. FOR EASTERN EUROPE--IN SONNENFELDT'S WORDS - IT IS A QUESTION OF PREVENTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EXPLOSIVE SITUATION WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO A THIRD WORLD WAR. FOR THAT ONE SHOULD, ON THE ONE HAND, SUPPORT A

MAXIMUM OF INDEPENDENCE FOR THE EASTERN EUROPE COUNTRIES, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM AND THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD BE MORE THAN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE OPPRESSOR AND THE OPPRESSED (WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO THE EXPLOSION) AND SHOULD BE MORE NORMAL AND IN A WAY MORE LIBERAL.

FOR WESTERN EUROPE--IN KISSINGER'S WORDS--A COMING TO POWER OF THE COMMUNISTS MUST BE PREVENTED AT ALL COSTS; NOT BECAUSE ONE SHOULD DISTRUST THEIR MORE OR LESS REASONABLE CHARACTER, BUT BECAUSE IF THEY SHOULD COME TO POWER, THE DYNAMICS OF THE SITUATION WOULD FATALLY OBLIGE THE AMERICAN TROOPS TO LEAVE OUR CONTINENT: THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE WOULD BE DESTROYED, AMERICA WOULD AGAIN BE ALONE ON ITS ISLAND AND WOULD BE UNABLE TO RE-ESTABLISH THE BALANCE WHICH WOULD THUS BE DESTROYED TO ITS DISADVANTAGE, EXCEPT BY BRUTAL POWER POLITICS "WHICH ARE ENTIRELY THE CONTRARY OF ALL MORAL PRINCIPLES WHICH HAVE SHAPED HER ACTIONS ALL THROUGH ITS HISTORY".

WHERE IN THESE WORDS IS THERE WEAKNESS IN THE FACE OF THE SOVIET MENACE? RARELY HAVE WE HAD A MORE LUCID ANALYSIS AND A FIRMER DETERMINATION TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT. OF COURSE, THE ROAD THUS TRACED BY MR. KISSINGER IS ONE TO BE FOLLOWED OVER THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS. IT DOES NOT OUTLINE WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IN EACH SPECIFIC CRISIS, AT EACH "SWING OF THE PENDULUM". BUT FOR AMERICA THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO KNOW WHERE SHE IS GOING OVER THE LONG TERM. STRAUS

UNQTE
ROBINSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, COMMUNISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE094674
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RBCASAGRANDE:BJR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760148-0350
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760446/aaaabngf.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: oatisao
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by oatisao>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOURNAL DE GENEVA EDITORIAL ON "SONNENFELDT AFFAIRS" LEADING SWISS-FRENCH NEWSPAPER, JOURNAL DE GENEVA, APRIL 14
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, SZ, US, XH
To: EUR POSTS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006